

**Claims**

1. A method for improving printability of uncoated mechanical pulp paper which  
5 method comprises
- applying a combination of alkyl ketene dimer and styrene maleic acid anhydride copolymer onto at least one side of the paper web, and
  - calendering the paper web.
- 10 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the combination of alkyl ketene dimer and styrene maleic acid anhydride copolymer is applied before (super)calendering.
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the combination of alkyl ketene dimer (AKD) and styrene maleic acid anhydride copolymer (SMA) is a mixture of  
15 AKD and SMA.
4. The method according to claim 3 wherein the mixture of alkyl ketene dimer and styrene maleic acid anhydride copolymer is applied together with moistening water.
- 20 5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the paper to be treated is uncalendered paper.
6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the weight ratio of alkyl ketene dimer to styrene maleic acid anhydride copolymer is 1:5 – 2:1, preferably  
25 bly 1:1...2.
7. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the combination of alkyl ketene dimer and styrene maleic acid anhydride copolymer is applied onto the paper web in an amount of 0.05 – 0.8 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

8. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the combination of alkyl ketene dimer and styrene maleic acid anhydride copolymer is applied onto the paper web

- at a separate (super)calender before or during calendering, or
- 5       - at the paper machine before or during on-line (super)calendering, or
- at the paper machine before the paper web is passed to a separate (super)calender.

9. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein before applying the combination of AKD and SMA the paper web is dried to a suitable moisture content, preferably to a moisture content <15%.

10. Use of a combination of alkyl ketene dimer and styrene maleic anhydride copolymer on paper surface for improving the printability of uncoated mechanical pulp papers.

11. The use according to claim 10 wherein the paper is SC paper or newsprint paper.

20   12. Paper prepared according to the method of any one of claims 1 to 9.

13. Use of the paper according to claim 12 in a rotogravure printing process.